

# Lomitan Held for 'Jealous Rage' Slaying

Torrance

## Press-Herald

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# DEATH ENDS GUN STRUGGLE

## Victim Was Stranger to The Suspect

A 23-year-old Lomita man who walked into the Torrance Police Station Monday night and told officers he had just shot a man has been charged with the murder of a 21-year-old Lakewood man who was visiting in Lomita.

### Realty Board Adds 31 New Members Here

Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors ranks grew by 31 members during September. It was announced by Dell Wright, Board president.

New "class A" Realtor with a new office in Torrance is John A. Brown, doing business as J. A. Brown Associates, 3935 Artesia Blvd., Torrance.

Two new members with "Realtor" status are Wilbur L. Martin and Ronald S. Schwab.

Twenty-five new salesmen members were formally inducted into Board membership ranks. They are Elmer Bidwell, William Blaine, Adelia Beal, Valrie Crickmay, Faith Dudley, Chester Eaton, Donald Erlandson, Connie Fernandez, Beverly Henry, Herbert Hopkins, Grant Logan, Richard McGinty, Leonard Meier, Evelyn Olson, George Punched, Doris Roberts, Martin Salgado, Emmett Schenbaum, Margaret Schoendienst, William Smalley, Kermit Taube, Russell Travis Jr., William Wakeland, Donald G. Warren and Elvy E. Welsch.

New non-resident Realtor is Arthur E. Phelps, Gardena. New non-resident salesman is Julia Seymour.

Boulevard Escrow Co. was granted an affiliate membership in the Board, it was announced.

### Local Pastor to Attend Seminar

The Rev. Francis A. Rath from Seaside Community Church, 22902 Ocean Ave., will attend the third annual meeting of the Los Angeles Association of the United Church of Christ tomorrow at the Hollywood Congregation Church.

## Council Puts Quick End To Request for Heliport

Plans to establish a heliport near Redondo Beach Boulevard and Daphne Avenue were quietly and quickly junked last night when the City Council denied a request handed to it just before the meeting.

Acting on the recommendation of City Manager Edward Ferraro, the council also instructed the city's Planning and Airport commissions to begin a study on "the whole question of heliports" in the city.

Ferraro said such a study should include any and all possible sites in the city, if,

Gary James Westall, an auto mechanic, walked into the Torrance station about 9:30 p.m. Monday, put a gun on the counter, and said: "I just shot a man."

DEPUTIES from Lennox Sheriff's station reported that Joseph Lee Robinson, of Lakewood had been shot fatally about 15 minutes earlier.

"Westall must have gone straight from the scene of the shooting to the Torrance station," a deputy told the Press-Herald.

Investigators said Westall had entered the apartment of his estranged wife, Sharon, at 25009 1/2 Walnut Ave., Lomita, to find Robinson there along with two men living nearby. They had stopped in to borrow Mrs. Westall's iron to iron a shirt, detectives were told.

ROBINSON was ironing a shirt when Westall appeared at the apartment. Robinson was shot twice in the chest. He collapsed outside the apartment and was apparently dead when deputies arrived.

The Westall's 7-month-old son, Danny, was nearby during the shooting, it was reported.

### Vickers Active In Minuteman II Launching

The Aerospace Division of Vickers Inc. participated in the successful initial launching of the Air Force's Minuteman II intercontinental ballistic missile.

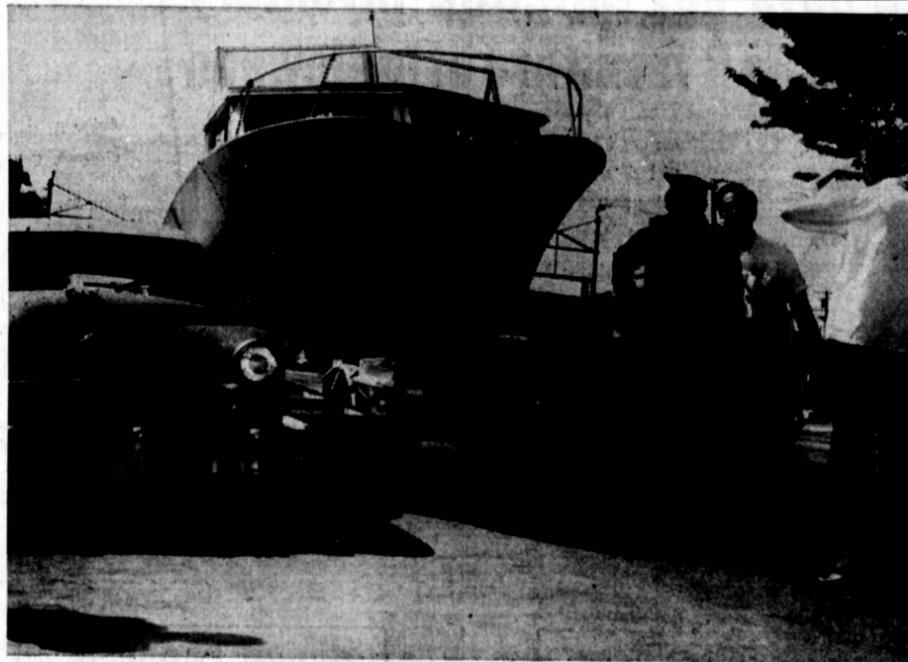
Vickers auxiliary power supplies and hot gas valves, built at the local plant are an integral part of the Minuteman II's inertial guidance and flight control system for which North American Aviation's Autonetics Division is the associate contractor. Vickers Inc. is a division of Sperry Rand Corp.

in fact, heliports are desirable for Torrance.

The application given the council was submitted by Donald Pierson of the Federal Aviation Agency on behalf of Inter-City Airways, Inc., of Paramount. A petition with the signatures of 106 residents in the area opposed to the heliport was submitted.

IN OTHER action, the council:

• Referred to the Planning Commission for study a petition for R-3 zoning on property located adjacent to the KNX transmitter tower and south of 186th Street. The



HIGH AND DRY . . . Motorists on Torrance Boulevard were doing double takes Sunday afternoon when they saw this cruiser parked neatly between two automobiles at Madrid Avenue. Frank Chiappetta, 16803 S. Vermont Ave., said he wasn't quite sure what hap-

pened to the rig he was towing. "All of a sudden, there we were," he said. Police put in a quick call to King Harbor for an assist with boat-handling equipment. Damage was relatively light.

(Press-Herald Photo)

### Board Ponders Proposal

## Should Students Have Say On Teacher Merit Raises?

Can high school students pass mature judgment on their own teachers?

Some members of the board of Education believe they can, and add that seventh and eighth grade students may also be able to judge the quality of their teachers.

The suggestion was made during a discussion of merit pay proposals at Monday's meeting of the trustees. Albert Charles, who first began the talk of merit pay for teachers nearly a year ago, believes the students are best equipped to evaluate the teachers.

"Those who know best are the recipients of the instruction," Charles said. He also said a carefully prepared questionnaire would make the crank answers "stand out like a sore thumb."

TRUSTEE William Hanson agreed with Charles. "The key is the intelligence used

in making the questionnaire," Hanson said.

Both Charles and Hanson qualified their stands by saying that student questionnaires would be only one part of a team effort to evaluate the

### Teacher Turnover Hits Lowest Mark in History

Are Torrance teachers staying on the job?

According to a report compiled this week by the Torrance Unified School District, teacher turnover this past year was the lowest in the history of the district. Only 11 per cent of Torrance teachers left their jobs last year, as compared to 12.2 per cent the previous year and 32 per cent 10 years ago.

The trend toward reduction in teacher turnover during the past five years has been steady, with 19.4 per cent quitting their jobs five years ago, 17.3 per cent leaving four years ago, and 14.7 per cent resigning three years ago.

OFFICIALS PREDICT that the turnover rate will probably stabilize within a range of between 11 to 14.5 per cent during the next few years. "However," cautions Dr. Robert Morton, assistant superintendent of personnel services, "it is difficult to predict at this time the influence of the Fisher Bill on teacher turnover."

In terms of numbers, there were 159 resignations at the end of the 1961-62 school year, and there were 140 in 1962-63, and there were 138 last year.

Why do teachers quit? In one out of four cases the teacher quits because of her husband's work. Almost one fifth of the teachers who did not return this fall accepted

quality of the teachers.

The merit pay proposal, under study for about a year by a committee of administrators, teachers, and board members, would reward outstanding teachers through

higher pay. Present pay scales provide for annual increases under professional growth requirements and seniority.

DR. KURT SHERY, president of the board, said he felt "13 and 14-year-olds were not capable of passing mature judgement on their teachers."

Discussion of merit pay plans will continue on the committee level for some time. Plans now in use in other districts are being studied and evaluated, and board members expect it will be some time before a workable plan for Torrance can be adopted.

Chief among present concerns has been a dual question of who will make the merit evaluations and how will the personality factor be eliminated. Dr. Robert Morton, assistant superintendent for personnel, feels that once this problem is solved, merit pay plans are only a question of administration.

### Civic Leader Mrs. Tillim Dies, Ventura Rites Set

Funeral services for Mrs. Herma Tillim, long-time Torrance businesswoman and civic leader, will be held in Ventura at 11 a.m. Thursday. She died in that city Monday evening following an illness which had taken her there to make her home with a brother, Robert Taplett.

Mrs. Tillim, a Torrance resident from 1951, owned and operated the Torrance Personnel Agency in downtown Torrance for many years, and was a candidate for City Clerk here in 1958 and 1962.

She was active in the North Torrance Civic Improvement

Association, served four years on the city's Parks and Recreation Commission, one year as chairman; a charter member and director of Pilot International of Torrance, a women's service club; a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club; an officer of Torrance Branch, YWCA, and a member of the board for Harbor Welfare Planning Council.

In recent years, Mrs. Tillim has been associated with D & M Machine Works of Torrance.

The Ted Mayr Mortuary of Ventura is in charge of funeral arrangements.

## Mother Dies With Bullet In the Head

A struggle for a loaded pistol ended Tuesday night with the fatal shooting of a Torrance mother of three and the arrest of her ex-husband, a millwright at the U.S. Steel's Columbia plant here.

Pronounced dead at Harbor General Hospital was Mrs. Theresa Knox, 28, who lived at 23229 Meyler St. with her three children.

Arrested by sheriff's homicide officers on suspicion of murder was Peter Wakefield Knox, 29, ex-husband of the victim, who told officers the shooting was accidental.

According to investigators, Knox contends he had been living at the home of his ex-wife and that he had taken the .38 caliber revolver out of a hall closet and was on his way to loan the weapon to a friend.

A struggle with Mrs. Knox ensued when she grabbed his arm and said "you won't need this," he said. The gun fired, the bullet hitting her between the eyes.

Investigation of circumstances connected with the shooting is continuing, deputies said early today.

### Crash Kills Two in Auto

A head-on collision Monday night killed two men in the East Torrance area according to California Highway Patrol reports.

Jimmy Austin Smith, 34, of Gardena, died in Dominguez Valley Hospital after the crash, and his passenger, James Allison Ector, 24, died more than an hour later.

Highway Patrolmen indicated another car driven by Sharyn Jo Shipman, 19, of Compton, collided head-on with the Smith vehicle

### Druggist Held Up By Bandit

Two men who approached the front door to his pharmacy at 2505 Torrance Blvd., he was approached by a man who asked about making a small purchase.

The two men entered the store and on arriving at the counter in the rear, Perzik was told: "This is a holdup."

A second man apparently entered the front of the store, the victim told investigating police. He said the bandit who had first approached him spoke to the other in Spanish during the holdup.

His wallet and all of its contents was taken from the pharmacist by the gun-wielding bandit. A cash box containing more than \$400 in currency and coin was emptied.

The victim was taped and was unable to free himself for nearly 15 minutes after the bandit duo left the store, he said. He called his wife at home who notified police.

A description of the car used was given to police by witnesses who had been outside the pharmacy.

### DA Candidates Debate ---

Manley J. Bowler and Judge Evelle J. Younger, candidates for district attorney in the November election, will face each other in a debate at the Torrance Recreation Center tomorrow at 8 p.m. The debate is sponsored by the South Bay Forum, Inc. Tickets will be available at the door.

### Cities Honor World Champs ---

Civic officials from Torrance and Gardena will honor the Tordena Bullets, Connie Mack baseball world champions, at a special dinner tonight. The dinner, to be held at the Jump 'n Jack Restaurant at 7:30, is open to the public. Tickets are available at the door at \$3.25 per person.

### Recreation Tour Set ---

City Councilmen, Park and Recreation Department officials, and other members of the city hall staff will tour the city's parks and other recreation facilities Saturday. The annual tour will begin at 10 a.m. at the city hall.

### Beach Purchase Urged ---

The Board of Supervisors received and filed Tuesday a request of the Torrance City Council that the County acquire the beach front lot on which Sovereign Development Co. seeks to build a high rise apartment complex. The lot at 205 Paseo de la Playa was once the site of the Riviera Beach Club.

### Probation Building Due ---

A \$322,500 contract for construction of the new Probation Department Building on the Torrance Civic Center was awarded Tuesday to Parr Construction Co. of Culver City. The two-story building will become the headquarters for more than 50 probation officers when completed. It will be operated in conjunction with the new Superior Court building.